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NRO & USAF REVIEWS COMPLETED

1 June 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Research)
THROUGH : Acting Chief, Development Projects Division
SUBJECT : Transmittal of Report on Pilot Pay Status

1. Attached is a Memorandum for the Record written by [redacted] of the DPD Personnel Branch who is the single best informed source on the whole question of pilot pay both in the IDEALIST and OXCART Programs. You will recall having requested that we come up with a review of this question in the light of possible criticism from sources outside the Agency.

2. In particular I call your attention to the attachments to the Memorandum for the Record which will show you the extent to which our proposal was coordinated within the Agency prior to initial discussions with the OXCART pilots. I might mention that the OXCART proposal was also coordinated informally with AFCIG-5, and through them with the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, USAF and Dr. Charyk, although this is nowhere reflected in correspondence.

3. I have also attached as a second tab to the Memorandum for the Record a copy of a Memorandum of Understanding between CIA and one of the OXCART pilots, which you will notice deals rather specifically with the question of compensation and insurance. One facet of the astronaut pay scale called to my attention by Dr. Dryden is referred to by [redacted] in paragraph 5 of his memorandum, namely, the \$700,000.00 contract the astronauts have for their story from LIFE Magazine, which is payable to them over a five-year period. While this is not Government compensation, it is illustrative of the greater freedom and attractiveness of the Mercury Program when contrasted with the anonymous career in Project OXCART.

4. I would appreciate your reaction to this matter at your convenience. If there is any problem over the format in which this information has been presented to you, please let me know, and we can reverse it according to the audience with whom you might employ the document.

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Distribution:

Attachments

- A. Memo for the Record
- B. Memo of Understanding
- C. Memo to the DCI

(Signed) Stanley W. Beerli

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Assistant Chief, DPD

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